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ABSTRACT

This document contains the full results of a public-opinion survey of Virginia residents on education issues. The survey was conducted by telephone, using a randomly selected sample of adults. The sample for this poll was 804 respondents, which represents a cooperation rate of 49 percent. Respondents answered questions on the following topics: (1) overall evaluation of schools; (2) standards of learning and standards-of-learning tests; (3) school funding; (4) school vouchers; and (5) school leadership and school performance. This statistical report contains the questions asked in the survey, along with the responses, and a table of the results organized by demographic subgroupings. Some highlights of the poll: (1) 60 percent of respondents said public schools in Virginia provide an excellent or good education; (2) 30 percent said public schools in their community have gotten better since the previous year; (3) 44 percent said standards of learning in Virginia schools have not helped improve the quality of schools; (4) 67 percent said the level of funding in Virginia public schools is not enough to meet the schools' needs; and (5) 57 percent of respondents oppose school vouchers. (WFA)

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ED 468 302

COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL

Conducted for the Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute and sponsored in part by the Regional Educational Laboratory at AEL, Inc. Conducted by the VCU Center for Public Policy.

Public Opinion in Virginia on Schools and Education
May 2002

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These are results from the 2002 Commonwealth Education Poll conducted with 804 adults in Virginia between April 24-May 2, 2002. This report presents the full results from the poll. The following topics are addressed:

I. Overall Evaluation of Schools
II. SOLs and SOL tests
III. School Funding
IV. School Vouchers
V. School Leadership and School Performance
VI. Method of the Commonwealth Education Poll
VII. Questions Asked
VIII. Tables of Results by Subgroups of Virginians

Overall Evaluation of Schools

Overall, more Virginians are positive than negative about the quality of schools in the state. Nearly six in 10 (59 percent) say the schools are excellent or good compared to about three in 10 (32 percent) who say they are fair or poor. Similarly, schools in the respondents' local community are rated as excellent or good by 65 percent while 29 percent say they are fair or poor. Three in 10 Virginians say schools in their community have improved over the past five years and another 37 percent think the schools have held steady. Just 15 percent think the schools

have gotten worse. In terms of academic achievement, a plurality (45 percent) of Virginians think the expectations for student learning are about right, three in 10 think the expectations are too little and 15 percent say the expectations are too much. These results are quite similar to findings taken a year ago in the Commonwealth Education Poll. The schools on the whole, then, continue to be evaluated positively by a majority of Virginians and most think they have either held their ground or gotten better in the past five years.

Opinion on the SOLs

A majority of Virginians feel the SOL tests meet the program's objectives of holding schools accountable and improving student achievement. At the same time, however, many of these same individuals express reservations about the pressure SOL tests place on students and whether or not all important topics are being covered in the curriculum.

Virginians are uncertain whether the SOLs have helped improve the quality of schools in Virginia; a plurality of 44 percent say they have not helped while 38 percent say they have helped. A slight plurality are not confident that the SOL tests are an accurate indicator of student academic achievement (47 percent to 44 percent).

Nearly three-quarters of Virginians agree with the statement that the SOL tests hold schools accountable for student achievement (74 to 17 percent). Clear majorities across the board agree with this statement. Majorities of both those who think the SOLs have helped as well as those who say the SOLs have not helped improve school quality agree that the SOL tests hold schools accountable for student achievement. Among those who think the SOLs have helped school quality, 85 percent agree the tests hold schools accountable and, so do seven in 10 of those who think the SOLs have not helped.

A majority of Virginians endorse the idea that the SOL tests help improve student achievement (55 percent compared to 37 percent who disagree). Further, better than six in 10 (63 percent) think the SOL tests make sure all students in Virginia meet the same academic standards while 29 percent disagree.

Despite majority agreement that the SOLs are meeting their objectives, an equally large portion of Virginians appear to be concerned about the impact of the SOL tests. Seventy-two percent agree with the statement that "so much time is spent preparing for the SOL tests that teachers can't cover all the important material." Just 17 percent disagree. Both those who think

the SOLs have helped as well who think they have not helped improve school quality tend to agree with this statement. Eighty-seven percent of those who think the SOLs have not helped improve school quality agree with this statement but so do 65 percent of those who say the SOLs have helped. Concern over the impact of the SOL tests on the curriculum, then, are widespread even among those who see the SOL program as meeting its objectives.

Similarly, just over six in 10 Virginians (61 percent) agree that "the SOL tests are putting too much pressure on students" while 32 percent disagree. Better than eight in 10 of those who think the SOLs have not helped school quality think the tests are putting too much pressure on students. Those who think the SOLs have helped improve school quality are more divided on this issue but, a majority (at 51 percent) agree that the tests are putting too much pressure on students.

William C. Bosher, Jr., executive director of the Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute observed, "The strong support Virginians show for holding schools accountable is well founded given the significant increases we've seen in the performance of students and schools. Concern about pressure is a natural byproduct of any effort to improve performance."

"The SOL tests hold schools accountable for student achievement."

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know No answer	Number of cases
All Respondents	29%	45%	11%	6%	9%	804
SOLs have helped	37%	48%	9%	2%	3%	302
SOLs have not helped	27%	43%	13%	11%	6%	357

"The SOL tests make sure all students in Virginia meet the same academic standards."

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know No answer	Number of cases
All Respondents	22%	41%	17%	13%	8%	804
SOLs have helped	38%	48%	8%	3%	3%	302
SOLs have not helped	10%	34%	26%	25%	4%	357

"The SOL tests help improve student achievement."

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know No answer	Number of cases
All Respondents	13%	42%	22%	16%	8%	804
SOLs have helped	29%	57%	9%	2%	2%	302
SOLs have not helped	2%	27%	37%	31%	4%	357

"So much class time is spent preparing for the SOL tests that teachers can't cover all the important material."

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know No answer	Number of cases
All Respondents	45%	27%	11%	6%	11%	804
SOLs have helped	34%	31%	21%	9%	5%	302
SOLs have not helped	63%	24%	4%	5%	4%	357

"The SOL tests are putting too much pressure on students."

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know No answer	Number of cases
All Respondents	36%	25%	20%	12%	7%	804
SOLs have helped	20%	31%	28%	19%	2%	302
SOLs have not helped	56%	25%	10%	7%	2%	357

Cary Funk, director of the poll, said, "This poll tells a fascinating story. While legislative battles over the SOLs are sometimes seen as being split along party lines, public views are not particularly partisan. The public split is between those who see the SOLs as helping or not helping improve school quality. But even this distinction is too simple because on the one hand, majorities of both sides seem to agree that the SOL tests hold schools accountable for student achievement. On the other hand, majorities of both sides appear concerned about the impact of the SOL tests on the students and the school curriculum."

Concerns About SOL Testing

Virginians were split over whether the SOL tests are accurate indicators of student academic achievement; a slight plurality at 47 percent have either not much or not too much confidence in the SOL tests as accurate indicators of achievement while 44 percent are very or somewhat confident. What's underlying this skepticism? The poll asked a follow up question of

those who were not too, or not at all confident in the SOL tests which allowed respondents to explain their reasons in their own words. The responses suggest that, for the most part, many Virginians hold a number of general concerns about the ability of multiple choice tests of this sort to accurately tap academic performance. The most common response was that test performance doesn't always match up well with other indicators of academic achievement, such as grades, because some people don't test well on these kinds of exams. Twenty-six percent of those asked gave a response of this sort. Another frequent concern was that school instruction was overly geared toward the SOL tests. Some of the public concerns over the SOL tests would be considered misperceptions or mute points by educators. For example, four percent of those asked said that no single test should be used to gauge student achievement. On the whole, it doesn't appear that any one aspect of the SOL tests stands out in public skepticism about the tests. The open-ended comments reinforce the notion that a substantial portion of the public has general concerns about whether performance on the SOL tests accurately reflects academic achievement and some concerns over whether preparation for the SOL tests is taking away curriculum time from other important material.

Asked of those not too or not at all confident the SOL tests are an accurate indicator of academic achievement: Why is that?	**Percent**
Some people don't test well; Students too stressed; Test performance doesn't match up with grade performance or other achievement in life.	26%
Instruction is geared too much on SOLs	15%
Personal experience or information about the SOLs	9%
Tests don't capture learning; They encourage rote learning	7%
General negative comments about SOLs or testing	5%
It's wrong to use one test as indicator of school achievement	4%
SOL tests are too hard	3%
Social/Economic/Student background not considered	3%

Students don't take the tests seriously; just want to get it over with	2%
Other comments	13%
General comments that the tests are just not good, fair, or accurate measures	7%
Don't know much about SOLs	2%
Don't Know, No Answer, Not Sure of reasons	3%

School Funding

Virginians see a clear need for more money to support the schools, and most say a sales tax increase to get that funding would be a good idea. The poll found 67 percent saying that funding for schools in Virginia is not enough to meet their needs and just 23 percent that it is enough. State budget woes in Virginia have done little to change the public's perception that schools don't have enough funding. A year ago, the Commonwealth Education Poll asked the same question with nearly the same result (70 percent not enough to 21 percent enough).

	Enough	Not Enough	Don't know/ No answer	Number of cases
Overall Funding for Schools	23%	67%	9%	804

A belief that the amount of funding is directly linked to the quality of education is widely shared among Virginians. Asked how much the amount of money spent affects the quality of students' education, 45 percent said a great deal and another 26 percent said quite a lot. This compares with just 23 percent who felt this affected education quality not too much or not at all.

Putting Your Money Where Your Mouth Is

Six in ten Virginians say they are even willing to pay higher taxes so that school funding can be increased. Just 34 percent say they are not willing to do so. Despite the many changes in

the state economic climate, support for school funding appears as strong as did it a year ago. In 2001, the Commonwealth Education Poll found 57 percent willing to pay higher taxes and 36 percent not willing. Among those willing to pay higher taxes for the schools, nearly six in ten (58 percent) reported that a sales tax increase would be best. Just 14 percent mentioned income tax, 10 percent said real estate tax and 11 percent said personal property tax.

Public willingness to consider a sales tax increase was found in response to another question as well. Asked about the General Assembly's recent proposal to raise sales taxes in order to increase funding for education, six in 10 (61 percent) thought it was either a very good or good idea. This compares with 35 percent who said it was a bad or very bad idea.

"The General Assembly recently considered increasing the sales tax in Virginia in order to increase funding for public education. Do you think this is a very good idea, a good idea, a bad idea, or a very bad idea?"

	Very Good	Good Idea	Bad Idea	Very Bad	Don't know/ No answer	Number of cases
All respondents	14%	47%	24%	11%	4%	804
Funding is enough	11%	31%	34%	19%	4%	181
Funding is not enough	17%	51%	21%	8%	3%	545
Democrats	17%	50%	23%	5%	4%	228
Republicans	14%	42%	26%	15%	3%	221
Independents	14%	49%	23%	11%	3%	233
Funding Affects Quality						
A great deal	20%	52%	17%	7%	3%	359
Quite a bit	11%	47%	30%	8%	3%	222
Not too much or not at all	9%	33%	33%	23%	2%	179

Reaction to this proposal was quite similar across party lines. Those who see current funding in Virginia as enough were more negative towards this idea as were those who think that the amount of money spent on education has little affect on quality.

William C. Bosher, Jr., executive director of the Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute commented, "Virginians have reconfirmed, consistent with the JLARC analysis, their belief that schools are underfunded and that the state sales tax is their preferred remedy."

School Vouchers

School vouchers are becoming a perennial issue in the national debate on education. Question wording has been shown to make a big difference in public opinion on vouchers, presumably because there are still many uncertainties in how vouchers would work. The Commonwealth Education Poll asked, "Do you favor or oppose allowing students and parents to choose a private school at public expense?" Virginians were opposed to this idea by 60 to 35 percent. Just a year ago, public opinion on vouchers looked quite different. At that time, half of Virginians were in favor and 40 percent opposed to vouchers when asked: "Do you favor or oppose giving parents education tax credits, or vouchers, to pay for their child's tuition at a private, or parochial school of their choice?"

The Commonwealth Education Poll replicated the wording used in the PDK/Gallup surveys taken nationwide. The results show that Virginians' views on this issue are in sync with the nation as a whole. The 2001 PDK/Gallup survey found 62 percent of the nation opposed and 34 percent in favor of "allowing students and parents to choose a private school at public expense".

Republicans are more receptive to the idea of vouchers than are Democrats or independents. Among Republicans, 45 percent favored and 51 percent opposed vouchers. Two thirds of Democrats were opposed with 28 percent in favor of vouchers. Independents were opposed to vouchers by 61 to 36 percent. Younger respondents are also more receptive to the idea of vouchers. Among those 18-29 years of age, 41 percent favored and 53 percent opposed this idea. These differences by political party and age are consistent with findings from a year ago using a quite different question to measure opinion on vouchers.

Beliefs About the Impact of Vouchers

To get a more reliable assessment of opinion on vouchers, it may be helpful to focus on public beliefs about the impact of vouchers. Virginians seem to accept some but not all of what voucher proponents claim. Vouchers are sometimes talked about as a system reform which could improve public school performance. A bare majority of Virginians are skeptical that vouchers will lead to improved school performance due to market competition; forty-four percent said school performance was likely to improve if vouchers were allowed, while 51 percent thought this was unlikely.

A majority of Virginians express some concern over the possibility of discrimination from vouchers. Fifty-seven percent agreed with the statement, "Vouchers could result in government funds being used for discrimination because private schools can select which students they want to admit."

How will vouchers affect school choice? A majority of Virginians (60 percent) believe that allowing vouchers would make it likely that lower income parents have more choice in schools while 35 percent think this is unlikely. But when it comes to changing the pattern of users for private and public schools, Virginians are more divided. A slight plurality at 47 to 44 percent believe that only parents who already send their children to private schools will use vouchers if they are allowed. Beliefs about the likely impact of vouchers tend to match up with overall support for vouchers; those who favor the idea of vouchers tend to see more positive implications and those who oppose vouchers are more skeptical about the likely impact of vouchers.

"The public schools will improve performance because of more competition from private schools."

	Likely	Unlikely	Don't know No answer	Number of cases
All Respondents	44%	51%	5%	804
Favor Vouchers	70%	26%	3%	289
Oppose Vouchers	29%	67%	4%	468

"Lower income parents will have more choice in deciding which school is best for their child."

	Likely	Unlikely	Don't know No answer	Number of cases
All Respondents	60%	35%	5%	804
Favor Vouchers	83%	16%	1%	289
Oppose Vouchers	47%	48%	6%	468

"For the most part, only parents who already send their children to private schools will use vouchers."

	Likely	Unlikely	Don't know No answer	Number of cases
All Respondents	47%	44%	9%	804
Favor Vouchers	38%	57%	5%	289
Oppose Vouchers	53%	37%	10%	468

Opinion on Vouchers for Private vs. Religious-Based Private Schools

The poll tested two versions of the question wording using the split half technique. Half the sample was asked whether they favored or opposed the choice of a "private school" at public expense and the other half of the sample was asked about a "religious-based private school". The explicit mention of religious-based schools did not substantially alter opinions. Opposition to the "private school" question was 59 to 36 percent and that to the "religious-based private school" question was 60 to 34 percent. The combined responses of 60 percent opposed to 35 percent in favor are cited above since the differences by question wording are not statistically significant.

William C. Bosher, Jr., executive director of the Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute, said, "These results suggest that public reaction to the idea of vouchers is not likely to hinge on the separation of church and state issue. This is particularly interesting given the controversy in Ohio over the legality of allowing vouchers for religious-based private schools, currently waiting a decision from the United States Supreme Court."

School Leadership and School Performance

On the subject of school performance, Virginians appear especially focused on teachers. Good quality teachers are more likely to be considered the key to better school performance than any other group in the schools. The poll asked a series of questions about reasons for better school performance. Eighty-five percent of Virginians considered good quality teachers to be a top reason for better school performance. Nearly seven in 10 (69 percent) cited parent involvement in the schools as a top reason and 65 percent said that students with a strong motivation to learn were a top reason for better performance. Less important in the public view was leadership from school principals and district superintendents. Four in 10 consider leadership from school principals to be a top reason for better school performance and a quarter of Virginians said the same about district superintendents.

Reasons for better school performance	A top reason	Important, but not a top reason	Not too or Not at all important	Don't know No answer
Good quality teachers	85%	12%	2%	1%
Parents who are involved in the school	69%	25%	4%	1%
Students with strong motivation to learn	65%	28%	5%	2%
Leadership from school principals	40%	47%	11%	2%
Leadership from district superintendents	25%	45%	26%	4%

William C. Bosher, Jr., executive director of the Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute noted that " While the effective schools research has long held that principals were critical to school success, public perceptions seem to focus on the front lines first, with teachers, parents, and students, followed by principals and other school administrators second."

A separate series of questions asked how much influence principals, superintendents, and school boards have on school performance. From the public viewpoint, those in roles closer to the students tend to be viewed as having more influence on overall school performance. Principals were more likely to be seen as having a great deal of influence than either superintendents or school boards. Four in 10 Virginians said principals have a great deal of influence on school performance while three in 10 thought the same for superintendents and school boards. The survey also asked whether licensing requirements for school principals should be changed to give superintendents "more leeway to hire people they think will do well as principals even if they don't have past experience as teachers". The majority thought this was a bad idea. Sixty-three percent said this was a bad or very bad idea while just a third thought it was a good or very good idea.

METHOD OF THE COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL

The Commonwealth Education Poll is a public opinion survey of Virginia residents on education issues. The survey is conducted by telephone with a randomly-selected sample of adult Virginians.

Interviewing was conducted by telephone from the facilities of the Survey and Evaluation Research Laboratory at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. The interviewing is conducted by a staff of professionally trained, paid interviewers using computer-assisted telephone interviewing software.

The sample of telephone numbers was prepared by Genesys Sampling Systems of Ft. Washington, Pennsylvania, and was designed so that all residential telephones, including new and unlisted numbers, had a known chance of inclusion. The cooperation rate for the survey was 49%. Using the CASRO response rate calculations, interviews were obtained with respondents in 42% of the known or assumed residential households in the sample.

The data were weighted to adjust for unequal probabilities of selection due to multiple telephone lines and multiple adults living in the household. In addition, the data were weighted on sex, race, age, and region of residence to reflect the demographic composition of the Virginia adult population. Percentages reported in the text and tables are weighted, while the number of cases shown in the tables for various subgroups is the actual number of respondents.

Questions answered by the full sample of adults are subject to a sampling error of plus or minus approximately 4 percentage points at the 95 percent level of confidence. This means that in 95 out of 100 samples like the one used here, the results obtained should be no more than 4 percentage points above or below the figure that would be obtained by interviewing all adult Virginians with telephones. Where the answers of subgroups are reported, the sampling error would be higher. Because of nonresponse (refusals to participate, etc.), standard calculations of sampling error are apt to understate the actual extent to which survey results are at variance with the true population values. Surveys are also subject to errors from sources other than sampling. While every effort is made to identify such errors, they are often difficult or impossible to measure. Readers making use of the results are urged to be mindful of the limitations inherent in survey research.

More information on the methodology is available from the director of the Commonwealth Poll, Dr. Cary Funk, at (804) 827 1430 or clfunk@vcu.edu. Other results from the Commonwealth Education Poll can be found at http://www.edpolicyvcu.org/.

Questions asked on the 2002 Commonwealth Education Poll
Virginia Commonwealth University
April 24 - May 2, 2002
Number of Respondents: 804

Overall Evaluation of Schools

Q1. First, thinking about the public schools in Virginia as a whole, would you say that they provide an excellent, good, fair, or poor education?

	2002	2001
Excellent	10%	11%
Good	50	47
Fair	26	26
Poor	5	4
Don't Know/No Answer	9	11

Q2. What about the public schools in your community-would you say that they provide an excellent, good, fair, or poor education?

	2002	2001	2000
Excellent	18%	18%	15%
Good	47	42	44
Fair	21	22	22
Poor	8	7	6
Don't Know/No Answer	6	10	12

Q3. Over the past five years, have the public schools in your community gotten better, worse, or stayed the same?

	2002	2001	2000
Better	30%	29%	33%
Worse	15	16	14
Stayed the same	37	35	34
Don't Know/No Answer	19	20	20

Q4. In terms of academic achievement, do you think the public schools in Virginia expect kids to learn too much, too little, or are the expectations about right?

	2002	2001
Too much	15%	17%
Too little	30	32
About right	45	39
Don't Know/No Answer	10	12

SOLs and SOL tests

Q5. As you may know, there's been a lot of talk lately about the Standards of Learning (or SOLs) in Virginia schools. Overall, do you think the SOLs have helped or not helped improve the quality of schools in Virginia?

Helped	38%
Not Helped	44
Don't Know/No Answer	18

Q6. (IF HELPED IN Q5.) Would you say the SOLs have helped improve the quality of schools in Virginia a lot or a little?

OF THOSE SAYING HELPED

A lot	45%
A little	44
Don't Know/No Answer	4

Q5. and Q6. Combined:

Helped a lot	17%
Helped a little	17
Don't know how much helped	4
Not Helped	44
Don't know if helped or not helped	18

2001 Commonwealth Poll: As you may know, there's been a lot of talk lately about the Standards of Learning tests (or SOLs) in Virginia schools. Overall, do you think the SOLs have helped improve the quality of schools in Virginia--a lot, a little, or not at all?

	2001
A lot	16%
A little	36
Not at all	31
Don't Know/No Answer	17

Q7. How familiar are you with the content of SOL tests-very familiar, somewhat familiar, not too familiar, or not at all familiar?

Very familiar	23%
Somewhat familiar	42
Not too familiar	17
Not at all familiar	16
Don't Know/No Answer	1

Q8. How confident are you that the test scores on the SOLs are an accurate indicator of a student's progress and school achievement-very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

	2002	2001
Very confident	6%	9%
Somewhat confident	38	35
Not too confident	31	27
Not at all confident	16	19
Don't Know/No Answer	9	10

Q9. IF NOT TOO OR NOT AT ALL CONFIDENT: Why do you say that?

Open end responses recorded verbatim and coded into categories

Some people don't test well; Students too stressed; Test performance doesn't match up with grade performance or other achievement in life.	26%
Instruction is geared too much on SOLs	15%
Personal experience or information about the SOLs	9%
Tests don't capture learning; They encourage rote learning	7%
General negative comments about SOLs or testing	5%
It's wrong to use one test as indicator of school achievement	4%
SOL tests are too hard	3%
Social/Economic/Student background not considered	3%
Students don't take the tests seriously; just want to get it over with	2%
Other comments	13%
General comments that the tests are just not good, fair, or accurate measures	7%
Don't know much about SOLs	2%
Don't Know, No Answer, Not Sure of reasons	3%

There are a number of different views about academic standards and the SOL tests in Virginia. Please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with each of the following statements.

Q10. to Q14. were asked in randomized order.

Q10. The SOL tests make sure that all students in Virginia meet the same academic standards.
(Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with this statement?)

Strongly agree	22%
Somewhat agree	41
Somewhat disagree	17
Strongly disagree	13
Don't Know/No Answer	8

Q11. The SOL tests are putting too much pressure on students.
(Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with this statement?)

Strongly agree	36%
Somewhat agree	25
Somewhat disagree	20
Strongly disagree	12
Don't Know/No Answer	7

Q12. The SOL tests hold schools accountable for student achievement.
(Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with this statement?)

Strongly agree	29%
Somewhat agree	45
Somewhat disagree	11
Strongly disagree	6
Don't Know/No Answer	9

Q13. So much class time is spent preparing for the SOL tests that teachers can't cover all the important material.
(Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with this statement?)

Strongly agree	45%
Somewhat agree	27
Somewhat disagree	11
Strongly disagree	6
Don't Know/No Answer	11

Q14. The SOL tests help improve student achievement.
(Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with this statement?)

Strongly agree	13%
Somewhat agree	42
Somewhat disagree	22
Strongly disagree	16
Don't Know/No Answer	8

School Funding

Q15. In your opinion, how much does the amount of money spent on the public schools affect the quality of students' education-a great deal, quite a lot, not too much, or not at all?

A great deal	45%
Quite a lot	26
Not too much	19
Not at all	4
Don't Know/No Answer	5%

Q16. Overall, do you think the funding for public schools in Virginia is enough to meet their needs, or not enough to meet their needs?

	2002	2001
Enough	23%	21%
Not enough	67	70
Don't Know/No Answer	9	10

Q17. Would you be willing or not willing to pay higher taxes so that school funding could be increased?

	2002	2001
Willing	60%	57%
Not willing	34	36
Don't Know/No Answer	6	7

Q18. IF WILLING: What kind of tax increase do you think would be best-- sales tax, income tax, real estate property tax, or personal property tax?

	Of Those Willing	
	2002	2001
Sales tax	58%	47%
Income tax	14	16
Real estate property tax	10	16
Personal property tax	11	13
Don't Know/No Answer	6	9

Q19. The General Assembly recently considered increasing the sales tax in Virginia in order to increase funding for public education. Do you think this is a very good idea, a good idea, a bad idea, or a very bad idea?

Very good idea	14%
Good idea	47
Bad idea	24
Very bad idea	11
Don't Know/No Answer	4

Vouchers

Now, on a different topic.

SPLIT HALF Q20 AND Q21

Q20. Do you favor or oppose allowing students and parents to choose a private school at public expense?

Favor	36%
Oppose	59
Don't Know/No Answer	5

Q21. Do you favor or oppose allowing students and parents to choose a religious-based private school at public expense?

Favor	34%
Oppose	60
Don't Know/No Answer	7

COMBINED RESPONSES

Each question was asked of a randomly selected half the sample. There were no statistically significant differences in response between the two question versions.

	2002
	Virginia
Favor	35%
Oppose	60
Don't Know/No Answer	5

PDK/Gallup 2001 asked a nationwide sample: Do you favor or oppose allowing students and parents to choose a private school at public expense?

	Nationwide
Favor	34%
Oppose	62
Don't Know/No Answer	4

2001Commonwealth Education Poll: Do you favor or oppose giving parents education tax credits, or vouchers, to pay for their child's tuition at a private, or parochial school of their choice?

	Virginia
Favor	50%
Oppose	40
Don't Know/No Answer	10

Vouchers would give parents education tax credits to pay for their child's tuition at a private or parochial school of their choice. There are many different ideas about what vouchers would do. For each of the following please tell me if you think this likely or unlikely to occur if vouchers are allowed. First,

Q22. to Q24. were asked in randomized order.

Q22. The public schools will improve performance because of more competition from private schools.
(Is this likely or unlikely to occur if vouchers are allowed?)

Likely	44%
Unlikely	51
Don't Know/No Answer	5

Q23. Lower-income parents will have more choice in deciding which school is best for their child.
(Is this likely or unlikely to occur if vouchers are allowed?)

Likely	60%
Unlikely	35
Don't Know/No Answer	5

Q24. For the most part, ONLY parents who already send their children to private schools will use vouchers.
(Is this likely or unlikely to occur if vouchers are allowed?)

Likely	47%
Unlikely	44
Don't Know/No Answer	9

Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements?

Q25. Vouchers could result in government funds being used for discrimination because private schools can select which students they want to admit.
(Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with this statement?)

Strongly agree	27%
Somewhat agree	30
Somewhat disagree	19
Strongly disagree	16
Don't Know/No Answer	8

Q26. People who don't like the public schools have the choice to use private schools or home schooling right now, even if vouchers are not allowed.
(Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with this statement?)

Strongly agree	39%
Somewhat agree	39
Somewhat disagree	9
Strongly disagree	7
Don't Know/No Answer	6

School Leadership and School Performance

Q27. Next, I'm going to ask you how much influence on overall school performance different people or groups in the school system have. First,

Principals? How much influence do you think principals have on overall school performance-- a great deal, quite a lot, not too much, or none at all?

A great deal	40%
Quite a lot	29
Not too much	25
None at all	3
Don't Know/No Answer	3

Q28. School district superintendents? (How much influence do you think school district superintendents have on overall school performance-- a great deal, quite a lot, not too much, or none at all?)

A great deal	30%
Quite a lot	26
Not too much	33
None at all	5
Don't Know/No Answer	6

Q29. School Boards? (How much influence do you think school boards have on overall school performance-- a great deal, quite a lot, not too much, or none at all?)

A great deal	30%
Quite a lot	29
Not too much	30
None at all	6
Don't Know/No Answer	5

There may be a number of reasons why some schools perform better than others. For each of the following, please tell me how much you feel this is a reason for better school performance.

Q30. to Q34. were asked in randomized order.

Q30. Good quality teachers?
(How much is this a reason for better school performance-would you say it's a top reason, important but not a top reason, not too important, or not at all important?)

A top reason	85%
Important but not a top reason	12
Not too important	1
Not at all important	1
Don't Know/No Answer	1

Q31. Students with a strong motivation to learn?
(How much is this a reason for better school performance-would you say it's a top reason, important but not a top reason, not too important, or not at all important?)

A top reason	65%
Important but not a top reason	28
Not too important	4
Not at all important	1
Don't Know/No Answer	2

Q32. Leadership from school principals?
(How much is this a reason for better school performance-would you say it's a top reason, important but not a top reason, not too important, or not at all important?)

A top reason	40%
Important but not a top reason	47
Not too important	8
Not at all important	3
Don't Know/No Answer	2

Q33. Leadership from district superintendents?
(How much is this a reason for better school performance-would you say it's a top reason, important but not a top reason, not too important, or not at all important?)

A top reason	25%
Important but not a top reason	45
Not too important	20
Not at all important	6
Don't Know/No Answer	4

Q34. Parents who are involved in the school?
(How much is this a reason for better school performance-would you say it's a top reason, important but not a top reason, not too important, or not at all important?)

A top reason	69%
Important but not a top reason	25
Not too important	3
Not at all important	1
Don't Know/No Answer	1

Q35. The state requires school principals to have experience as a classroom teacher before getting a license to work as a principal. Some people think the licensing requirements should be changed so that superintendents have more leeway to hire people they think will do well as principals even if they don't have past experience as teachers. Do you think this is a very good idea, a good idea, a bad idea, or a very bad idea?

Very good idea	9%
Good idea	24
Bad idea	38
Very bad idea	25
Don't Know/No Answer	4

	Public schools in Virginia—would you say they provide an excellent, good, fair or poor education?						Number of cases
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't Know	No Answer	
Total.....	10%	50%	26%	5%	9%	0%	804
Male.....	7%	53%	25%	6%	9%	0%	319
Female.....	11%	47%	27%	5%	9%	1%	485
White.....	9%	52%	24%	6%	8%	1%	602
Black.....	10%	50%	32%	3%	4%	0%	110
Northwest.....	10%	57%	23%	2%	8%	0%	110
Northern VA.....	15%	52%	13%	5%	13%	2%	225
West.....	4%	52%	35%	7%	3%	0%	160
South Central.....	5%	49%	35%	6%	5%	0%	137
Tidewater.....	10%	42%	31%	6%	12%	0%	172
Have Children in Public School?							
Yes.....	9%	61%	23%	3%	2%	1%	230
School Employee in Household?							
Yes.....	10%	55%	26%	4%	4%	0%	98
Family Income							
Under 35,000.....	9%	51%	29%	6%	4%	0%	181
35-50,000.....	10%	46%	27%	5%	11%	0%	147
50-69,000.....	4%	53%	31%	3%	9%	0%	116
70,000 and above..	13%	55%	17%	4%	10%	1%	238
Education							
H.S. or less.....	8%	52%	29%	6%	6%	0%	244
Some college.....	9%	52%	28%	4%	7%	0%	222
College grad & up.	12%	47%	23%	5%	12%	1%	331
Age							
18-29.....	8%	48%	31%	4%	9%	1%	148
30-44.....	11%	50%	25%	4%	9%	0%	245
45-64.....	10%	51%	25%	7%	6%	1%	271
65 & older.....	8%	49%	26%	7%	11%	0%	111
Place where live							
Urban.....	5%	47%	28%	6%	13%	0%	173
Suburban.....	13%	50%	23%	3%	10%	1%	267
Rural/Small Town..	9%	51%	29%	6%	6%	0%	342
Party Identification							
Democrat.....	13%	55%	24%	3%	4%	0%	228
Republican.....	7%	46%	28%	6%	12%	1%	221
Independent.....	9%	49%	26%	5%	10%	0%	233

	Public schools in your community—would you say they provide an excellent, good, fair, or poor education?						Number of cases
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't Know	No Answer	
Total	18%	47%	21%	8%	6%	0%	804
Male.....	18%	49%	17%	10%	6%	0%	319
Female.....	17%	46%	24%	6%	7%	0%	485
White.....	18%	48%	20%	7%	7%	0%	602
Black.....	16%	49%	24%	7%	4%	0%	110
Northwest.....	11%	51%	26%	3%	9%	0%	110
Northern VA.....	32%	46%	8%	4%	9%	0%	225
West.....	9%	55%	25%	9%	2%	0%	160
South Central.....	17%	47%	21%	12%	3%	1%	137
Tidewater.....	12%	41%	29%	10%	8%	0%	172
Have Children in Public School?							
Yes.....	21%	54%	17%	8%	0%	0%	230
School Employee in Household?							
Yes.....	16%	52%	21%	8%	1%	1%	98
Family Income							
Under 35,000.....	11%	48%	28%	6%	7%	0%	181
35-50,000.....	17%	47%	17%	9%	9%	0%	147
50-69,000.....	13%	47%	28%	9%	3%	0%	116
70,000 and above..	28%	48%	13%	5%	6%	0%	238
Education							
H.S. or less.....	12%	51%	24%	8%	4%	0%	244
Some college.....	16%	44%	25%	7%	7%	0%	222
College grad & up.	24%	46%	15%	7%	8%	0%	331
Age							
18-29.....	13%	47%	22%	9%	9%	0%	148
30-44.....	18%	48%	21%	7%	6%	0%	245
45-64.....	20%	50%	19%	8%	3%	0%	271
65 & older.....	20%	41%	23%	8%	9%	0%	111
Place where live							
Urban.....	14%	48%	23%	6%	9%	0%	173
Suburban.....	26%	47%	15%	4%	8%	0%	267
Rural/Small Town..	13%	46%	24%	11%	4%	0%	342
Party Identification							
Democrat.....	17%	55%	18%	5%	6%	0%	228
Republican.....	19%	41%	24%	10%	6%	0%	221
Independent.....	18%	47%	20%	8%	7%	0%	233

VCU Commonwealth Education Poll 2002

	Over the past five years, have the public schools in your community gotten:					Number of cases
	Better	Worse	Stayed the Same	Don't Know	No Answer	
Total.....	30%	15%	37%	16%	3%	804
Male.....	27%	16%	37%	16%	5%	319
Female.....	32%	14%	36%	16%	2%	485
White.....	30%	15%	35%	16%	3%	602
Black.....	30%	14%	44%	8%	4%	110
Northwest.....	38%	13%	30%	16%	2%	110
Northern VA.....	26%	13%	39%	17%	5%	225
West.....	32%	16%	35%	14%	2%	160
South Central.....	30%	16%	38%	13%	3%	137
Tidewater.....	27%	15%	37%	17%	3%	172
Have Children in Public School?						
Yes.....	33%	12%	44%	8%	4%	230
School Employee in Household?						
Yes.....	30%	27%	35%	8%	0%	98
Family Income						
Under 35,000.....	33%	11%	36%	15%	5%	181
35-50,000.....	29%	15%	34%	19%	3%	147
50-69,000.....	27%	13%	44%	14%	2%	116
70,000 and above..	31%	16%	35%	15%	4%	238
Education						
H.S. or less.....	33%	13%	35%	12%	7%	244
Some college.....	31%	15%	39%	15%	1%	222
College grad & up.	27%	17%	36%	19%	2%	331
Age						
18-29.....	29%	21%	26%	21%	4%	148
30-44.....	27%	13%	43%	13%	3%	245
45-64.....	31%	14%	39%	13%	3%	271
65 & older.....	36%	11%	31%	19%	4%	111
Place where live						
Urban.....	23%	13%	38%	20%	6%	173
Suburban.....	24%	14%	42%	18%	2%	267
Rural/Small Town..	37%	16%	33%	11%	3%	342
Party Identification						
Democrat.....	35%	14%	32%	16%	4%	228
Republican.....	28%	15%	36%	17%	3%	221
Independent.....	26%	17%	40%	14%	2%	233

	Do you think the public schools in Virginia expect kids to learn too much, too little, or are the expectations about right?					Number of cases
	Too much	Too little	About right	Don't Know	No Answer	
Total.....	15%	30%	45%	8%	2%	804
Male.....	9%	36%	49%	5%	2%	319
Female.....	21%	25%	42%	10%	2%	485
White.....	15%	31%	44%	8%	2%	602
Black.....	22%	23%	50%	3%	2%	110
Northwest.....	18%	27%	41%	11%	3%	110
Northern VA.....	9%	32%	48%	9%	2%	225
West.....	17%	29%	50%	3%	0%	160
South Central.....	15%	32%	45%	6%	3%	137
Tidewater.....	19%	29%	41%	9%	1%	172
Have Children in Public School?						
Yes.....	24%	21%	50%	3%	1%	230
School Employee in Household?						
Yes.....	16%	25%	52%	5%	1%	98
Family Income						
Under 35,000.....	21%	21%	51%	5%	1%	181
35-50,000.....	13%	32%	43%	9%	3%	147
50-69,000.....	18%	24%	48%	8%	2%	116
70,000 and above..	12%	37%	44%	6%	1%	238
Education						
H.S. or less.....	22%	22%	46%	8%	2%	244
Some college.....	15%	33%	45%	6%	1%	222
College grad & up.	10%	33%	46%	9%	2%	331
Age						
18-29.....	15%	30%	47%	6%	1%	148
30-44.....	19%	30%	44%	7%	0%	245
45-64.....	14%	31%	46%	6%	2%	271
65 & older.....	9%	27%	44%	16%	4%	111
Place where live						
Urban.....	12%	33%	41%	11%	3%	173
Suburban.....	12%	32%	49%	6%	1%	267
Rural/Small Town..	18%	28%	46%	7%	2%	342
Party Identification						
Democrat.....	16%	25%	54%	6%	1%	228
Republican.....	11%	34%	44%	9%	1%	221
Independent.....	15%	34%	41%	9%	1%	233

VCU Commonwealth Education Poll 2002

	Do you think the SOLs have helped or not helped improve the quality of schools in Virginia?				Number of cases
	Helped	Not helped	Don't Know	No Answer	
Total.....	38%	44%	16%	2%	804
Male.....	41%	41%	17%	2%	319
Female.....	36%	47%	15%	2%	485
White.....	36%	46%	16%	2%	602
Black.....	42%	46%	11%	1%	110
Northwest.....	27%	47%	20%	6%	110
Northern VA.....	34%	42%	21%	3%	225
West.....	45%	43%	12%	0%	160
South Central.....	43%	45%	12%	1%	137
Tidewater.....	41%	46%	13%	0%	172
Have Children in Public School?					
Yes.....	41%	52%	6%	1%	230
School Employee in Household?					
Yes.....	28%	57%	13%	2%	98
Family Income					
Under 35,000.....	44%	41%	12%	3%	181
35-50,000.....	42%	38%	18%	2%	147
50-69,000.....	34%	53%	13%	0%	116
70,000 and above..	38%	47%	13%	1%	238
Education					
H.S. or less.....	42%	41%	14%	3%	244
Some college.....	37%	48%	13%	2%	222
College grad & up.	38%	43%	18%	1%	331
Age					
18-29.....	39%	44%	16%	1%	148
30-44.....	39%	46%	13%	2%	245
45-64.....	39%	47%	12%	2%	271
65 & older.....	39%	34%	25%	2%	111
Place where live					
Urban.....	40%	40%	17%	3%	173
Suburban.....	40%	44%	15%	1%	267
Rural/Small Town..	37%	46%	15%	2%	342
Party Identification					
Democrat.....	43%	46%	10%	1%	228
Republican.....	36%	44%	17%	3%	221
Independent.....	40%	40%	19%	0%	233

VCU Commonwealth Education Poll 2002

	Have SOLs helped or not helped? with follow up question if helped					Number of cases
	Helped a lot	Helped a little	Not helped	Helped, don't know how much	Don't know if helped/not	
Total.....	17%	17%	44%	4%	17%	804
Male.....	13%	23%	41%	5%	19%	319
Female.....	21%	11%	47%	3%	16%	485
White.....	14%	19%	46%	4%	17%	602
Black.....	27%	13%	46%	2%	12%	110
Northwest.....	10%	13%	47%	4%	26%	110
Northern VA.....	14%	17%	42%	3%	24%	225
West.....	25%	16%	43%	4%	12%	160
South Central.....	23%	16%	45%	4%	12%	137
Tidewater.....	15%	20%	46%	6%	13%	172
Have Children in Public School?						
Yes.....	19%	16%	52%	5%	7%	230
School Employee in Household?						
Yes.....	20%	5%	57%	2%	15%	98
Family Income						
Under 35,000.....	25%	14%	41%	6%	15%	181
35-50,000.....	21%	15%	38%	6%	20%	147
50-69,000.....	13%	18%	53%	2%	13%	116
70,000 and above..	14%	21%	47%	3%	15%	238
Education						
H.S. or less.....	20%	17%	41%	5%	17%	244
Some college.....	18%	13%	48%	6%	15%	222
College grad & up.	15%	20%	43%	3%	19%	331
Age						
18-29.....	14%	21%	44%	4%	17%	148
30-44.....	19%	14%	46%	6%	15%	245
45-64.....	14%	22%	47%	3%	15%	271
65 & older.....	25%	11%	34%	3%	27%	111
Place where live						
Urban.....	17%	18%	40%	5%	20%	173
Suburban.....	15%	21%	44%	4%	16%	267
Rural/Small Town..	19%	14%	46%	4%	16%	342
Party Identification						
Democrat.....	23%	17%	46%	2%	11%	228
Republican.....	14%	16%	44%	5%	20%	221
Independent.....	17%	19%	40%	4%	20%	233

VCU Commonwealth Education Poll 2002

	How familiar are you with the content of SOL tests:					Number of cases
	Very familiar	Somewhat familiar	Not too familiar	Not at all familiar	Don't Know	
Total.....	23%	42%	17%	16%	1%	804
Male.....	19%	40%	22%	18%	1%	319
Female.....	27%	44%	14%	14%	1%	485
White.....	19%	44%	19%	17%	1%	602
Black.....	36%	43%	12%	9%	1%	110
Northwest.....	22%	42%	18%	16%	1%	110
Northern VA.....	27%	33%	19%	19%	2%	225
West.....	21%	42%	20%	16%	1%	160
South Central.....	18%	52%	17%	13%	0%	137
Tidewater.....	24%	47%	14%	14%	1%	172
Have Children in Public School?						
Yes.....	41%	47%	9%	2%	0%	230
School Employee in Household?						
Yes.....	49%	35%	8%	8%	0%	98
Family Income						
Under 35,000.....	21%	39%	21%	18%	1%	181
35-50,000.....	20%	40%	12%	26%	2%	147
50-69,000.....	28%	46%	16%	11%	0%	116
70,000 and above..	25%	46%	17%	11%	1%	238
Education						
H.S. or less.....	19%	39%	22%	18%	2%	244
Some college.....	27%	47%	12%	14%	0%	222
College grad & up.	23%	43%	17%	15%	1%	331
Age						
18-29.....	28%	44%	12%	14%	1%	148
30-44.....	26%	44%	15%	14%	1%	245
45-64.....	23%	47%	20%	10%	0%	271
65 & older.....	6%	32%	27%	32%	3%	111
Place where live						
Urban.....	23%	40%	18%	19%	0%	173
Suburban.....	20%	45%	17%	17%	1%	267
Rural/Small Town..	27%	41%	18%	13%	1%	342
Party Identification						
Democrat.....	24%	43%	19%	12%	2%	228
Republican.....	22%	43%	18%	17%	1%	221
Independent.....	20%	43%	17%	18%	2%	233

VCU Commonwealth Education Poll 2002

	How confident are you that the test scores on the SOLs are an accurate indicator of a student's academic achievement?						Number of cases
	Very	Somewhat	Not too	Not at all	Don't Know	No Answer	
Total.....	6%	38%	31%	16%	8%	1%	804
Male.....	5%	43%	28%	15%	8%	1%	319
Female.....	7%	33%	33%	18%	7%	1%	485
White.....	4%	38%	32%	18%	8%	1%	602
Black.....	12%	42%	26%	15%	3%	2%	110
Northwest.....	6%	33%	36%	15%	9%	2%	110
Northern VA.....	3%	38%	30%	16%	11%	2%	225
West.....	3%	40%	31%	16%	9%	0%	160
South Central.....	10%	37%	37%	9%	4%	2%	137
Tidewater.....	8%	39%	24%	22%	6%	1%	172
Have Children in Public School?							
Yes.....	6%	41%	33%	17%	2%	1%	230
School Employee in Household?							
Yes.....	6%	34%	33%	23%	4%	0%	98
Family Income							
Under 35,000.....	11%	39%	24%	18%	7%	1%	181
35-50,000.....	5%	34%	30%	18%	12%	1%	147
50-69,000.....	6%	30%	43%	14%	6%	0%	116
70,000 and above..	3%	43%	32%	16%	5%	1%	238
Education							
H.S. or less.....	9%	43%	29%	9%	8%	2%	244
Some college.....	5%	35%	32%	20%	7%	1%	222
College grad & up.	4%	35%	31%	20%	8%	1%	331
Age							
18-29.....	6%	37%	28%	21%	8%	0%	148
30-44.....	6%	36%	31%	20%	6%	2%	245
45-64.....	6%	42%	33%	13%	5%	1%	271
65 & older.....	5%	39%	29%	8%	16%	2%	111
Place where live							
Urban.....	6%	34%	28%	20%	12%	0%	173
Suburban.....	7%	41%	29%	14%	7%	2%	267
Rural/Small Town..	5%	37%	33%	17%	6%	2%	342
Party Identification							
Democrat.....	8%	38%	32%	14%	6%	2%	228
Republican.....	6%	38%	35%	13%	8%	1%	221
Independent.....	4%	41%	26%	19%	9%	1%	233

	The SOL tests make sure that all students in Virginia meet the same academic standards.						Number of cases
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know	No Answer	
Total.....	22%	41%	17%	13%	7%	1%	804
Male.....	22%	48%	16%	8%	5%	0%	319
Female.....	22%	35%	18%	17%	8%	1%	485
White.....	21%	43%	18%	11%	7%	1%	602
Black.....	26%	35%	13%	21%	4%	1%	110
Northwest.....	22%	42%	14%	10%	10%	2%	110
Northern VA.....	20%	41%	20%	9%	9%	1%	225
West.....	21%	41%	19%	13%	5%	0%	160
South Central.....	22%	46%	14%	12%	6%	0%	137
Tidewater.....	24%	38%	15%	18%	4%	1%	172
Have Children in Public School?							
Yes.....	21%	40%	18%	17%	3%	1%	230
School Employee in Household?							
Yes.....	22%	48%	13%	15%	3%	0%	98
Family Income							
Under 35,000.....	34%	33%	12%	14%	7%	1%	181
35-50,000.....	16%	43%	23%	11%	6%	1%	147
50-69,000.....	15%	51%	12%	17%	4%	0%	116
70,000 and above..	22%	41%	18%	11%	7%	1%	238
Education							
H.S. or less.....	25%	38%	17%	13%	7%	1%	244
Some college.....	21%	39%	18%	15%	6%	1%	222
College grad & up.	20%	45%	16%	11%	7%	1%	331
Age							
18-29.....	24%	45%	16%	9%	6%	0%	148
30-44.....	24%	38%	15%	16%	7%	0%	245
45-64.....	21%	45%	19%	13%	3%	0%	271
65 & older.....	17%	39%	18%	9%	15%	3%	111
Place where live							
Urban.....	21%	42%	15%	15%	8%	0%	173
Suburban.....	20%	45%	17%	11%	6%	1%	267
Rural/Small Town..	24%	38%	17%	13%	7%	1%	342
Party Identification							
Democrat.....	25%	39%	19%	12%	5%	0%	228
Republican.....	25%	42%	15%	11%	7%	1%	221
Independent.....	20%	43%	17%	12%	7%	0%	233

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	The SOL tests are putting too much pressure on students.						Number of cases
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know	No Answer	
Total	36%	25%	20%	12%	6%	1%	804
Male	26%	25%	27%	17%	3%	2%	319
Female	44%	26%	13%	8%	8%	1%	485
White	34%	28%	21%	11%	6%	1%	602
Black	45%	24%	15%	11%	2%	3%	110
Northwest	33%	26%	22%	10%	7%	3%	110
Northern VA	28%	24%	21%	15%	8%	4%	225
West	37%	31%	16%	9%	7%	0%	160
South Central	38%	26%	19%	14%	3%	0%	137
Tidewater	43%	22%	20%	12%	3%	0%	172
Have Children in Public School?							
Yes	47%	25%	18%	8%	1%	0%	230
School Employee in Household?							
Yes	48%	27%	17%	6%	2%	0%	98
Family Income							
Under 35,000	41%	27%	16%	9%	6%	1%	181
35-50,000	34%	21%	22%	14%	6%	2%	147
50-69,000	37%	33%	21%	6%	3%	0%	116
70,000 and above	31%	26%	22%	15%	5%	1%	238
Education							
H.S. or less	42%	27%	12%	12%	6%	1%	244
Some college	39%	27%	20%	9%	4%	1%	222
College grad & up.	28%	22%	26%	14%	7%	2%	331
Age							
18-29	36%	26%	19%	15%	4%	0%	148
30-44	42%	23%	21%	9%	4%	2%	245
45-64	37%	24%	20%	15%	3%	1%	271
65 & older	20%	31%	19%	10%	17%	3%	111
Place where live							
Urban	35%	24%	20%	11%	6%	4%	173
Suburban	29%	24%	22%	19%	5%	1%	267
Rural/Small Town	41%	27%	18%	9%	6%	1%	342
Party Identification							
Democrat	39%	28%	15%	9%	5%	3%	228
Republican	29%	24%	22%	20%	5%	0%	221
Independent	35%	26%	23%	10%	5%	1%	233

	The SOL tests hold schools accountable for student achievement.						Number of cases
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know	No Answer	
Total.....	29%	45%	11%	6%	8%	1%	804
Male.....	28%	46%	12%	7%	6%	2%	319
Female.....	31%	44%	10%	5%	10%	1%	485
White.....	24%	49%	12%	6%	8%	1%	602
Black.....	51%	33%	6%	3%	6%	0%	110
Northwest.....	29%	45%	7%	5%	11%	3%	110
Northern VA.....	29%	39%	13%	7%	11%	2%	225
West.....	23%	51%	13%	6%	5%	1%	160
South Central.....	27%	51%	12%	3%	6%	1%	137
Tidewater.....	36%	41%	8%	7%	7%	1%	172
Have Children in Public School?							
Yes.....	36%	44%	8%	5%	6%	1%	230
School Employee in Household?							
Yes.....	40%	35%	12%	9%	3%	1%	98
Family Income							
Under 35,000.....	32%	42%	11%	5%	9%	2%	181
35-50,000.....	29%	41%	13%	1%	13%	3%	147
50-69,000.....	29%	45%	15%	8%	2%	0%	116
70,000 and above..	32%	45%	9%	7%	7%	1%	238
Education							
H.S. or less.....	27%	46%	12%	6%	7%	2%	244
Some college.....	29%	50%	6%	5%	8%	1%	222
College grad & up.	32%	40%	13%	5%	9%	1%	331
Age							
18-29.....	33%	39%	16%	4%	7%	1%	148
30-44.....	30%	49%	8%	6%	6%	1%	245
45-64.....	33%	44%	9%	7%	6%	0%	271
65 & older.....	14%	48%	14%	4%	17%	3%	111
Place where live							
Urban.....	27%	47%	8%	6%	12%	1%	173
Suburban.....	34%	41%	11%	6%	6%	1%	267
Rural/Small Town..	27%	46%	12%	6%	7%	2%	342
Party Identification							
Democrat.....	35%	49%	6%	3%	6%	1%	228
Republican.....	25%	44%	11%	8%	10%	2%	221
Independent.....	31%	43%	15%	4%	6%	1%	233

	So much class time is spent preparing for the SOL tests that teachers can't cover all the important material.						Number of cases
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know	No Answer	
Total.....	45%	27%	11%	6%	9%	2%	804
Male.....	38%	29%	14%	7%	9%	2%	319
Female.....	51%	25%	8%	5%	9%	1%	485
White.....	43%	29%	12%	5%	10%	1%	602
Black.....	54%	22%	6%	11%	5%	2%	110
Northwest.....	38%	30%	10%	6%	10%	7%	110
Northern VA.....	36%	29%	12%	8%	14%	1%	225
West.....	49%	26%	12%	7%	6%	0%	160
South Central.....	52%	23%	11%	7%	7%	1%	137
Tidewater.....	48%	28%	9%	4%	8%	2%	172
Have Children in Public School?							
Yes.....	55%	26%	8%	7%	3%	1%	230
School Employee in Household?							
Yes.....	55%	27%	7%	8%	3%	0%	98
Family Income							
Under 35,000.....	44%	29%	11%	8%	6%	3%	181
35-50,000.....	46%	31%	10%	4%	8%	1%	147
50-69,000.....	46%	31%	9%	2%	11%	1%	116
70,000 and above..	44%	26%	13%	7%	9%	1%	238
Education							
H.S. or less.....	44%	30%	9%	9%	6%	3%	244
Some college.....	49%	26%	11%	4%	9%	1%	222
College grad & up.	41%	26%	13%	6%	12%	1%	331
Age							
18-29.....	43%	25%	12%	7%	11%	1%	148
30-44.....	47%	27%	11%	4%	10%	1%	245
45-64.....	49%	26%	12%	8%	3%	2%	271
65 & older.....	31%	33%	10%	7%	17%	3%	111
Place where live							
Urban.....	46%	28%	10%	6%	8%	2%	173
Suburban.....	40%	28%	12%	7%	12%	1%	267
Rural/Small Town..	47%	26%	11%	6%	7%	2%	342
Party Identification							
Democrat.....	49%	28%	8%	6%	9%	1%	228
Republican.....	39%	29%	12%	8%	9%	2%	221
Independent.....	46%	26%	12%	5%	11%	1%	233

	The SOL tests help improve student achievement.						Number of cases
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know	No Answer	
Total.....	13%	42%	22%	16%	7%	1%	804
Male.....	12%	47%	20%	14%	5%	1%	319
Female.....	14%	37%	23%	17%	8%	1%	485
White.....	8%	46%	23%	15%	7%	1%	602
Black.....	25%	33%	20%	19%	3%	0%	110
Northwest.....	7%	49%	24%	7%	8%	4%	110
Northern VA.....	13%	35%	27%	14%	10%	0%	225
West.....	14%	42%	16%	22%	6%	1%	160
South Central.....	13%	48%	19%	15%	3%	2%	137
Tidewater.....	15%	41%	20%	18%	5%	1%	172
Have Children in Public School?							
Yes.....	16%	38%	25%	19%	2%	0%	230
School Employee in Household?							
Yes.....	11%	43%	28%	18%	0%	0%	98
Family Income							
Under 35,000.....	18%	40%	19%	17%	5%	1%	181
35-50,000.....	13%	46%	17%	15%	7%	2%	147
50-69,000.....	9%	46%	28%	14%	4%	0%	116
70,000 and above..	11%	44%	24%	15%	6%	0%	238
Education							
H.S. or less.....	18%	42%	19%	13%	6%	2%	244
Some college.....	11%	46%	19%	19%	5%	0%	222
College grad & up.	10%	39%	26%	16%	7%	1%	331
Age							
18-29.....	13%	41%	28%	13%	5%	0%	148
30-44.....	12%	42%	22%	19%	5%	0%	245
45-64.....	13%	43%	20%	17%	4%	2%	271
65 & older.....	14%	45%	15%	7%	15%	3%	111
Place where live							
Urban.....	16%	40%	19%	17%	8%	0%	173
Suburban.....	12%	42%	25%	14%	5%	0%	267
Rural/Small Town..	12%	42%	20%	17%	6%	3%	342
Party Identification							
Democrat.....	18%	41%	21%	13%	6%	1%	228
Republican.....	12%	46%	21%	14%	6%	1%	221
Independent.....	10%	44%	21%	19%	7%	0%	233

	In your opinion, how much does the amount of money spent on the public schools affect the quality of student's education						Number of cases
	A great deal	Quite a lot	Not too much	Not at all	Don't Know	No Answer	
Total.....	45%	26%	19%	4%	4%	1%	804
Male.....	44%	26%	21%	5%	2%	1%	319
Female.....	46%	27%	17%	3%	6%	1%	485
White.....	44%	28%	19%	4%	4%	1%	602
Black.....	53%	21%	18%	3%	4%	1%	110
Northwest.....	45%	28%	15%	4%	5%	3%	110
Northern VA.....	42%	27%	20%	5%	4%	1%	225
West.....	43%	27%	21%	4%	3%	1%	160
South Central.....	42%	29%	20%	5%	2%	1%	137
Tidewater.....	52%	22%	17%	2%	6%	0%	172
Have Children in Public School?							
Yes.....	47%	28%	18%	2%	5%	0%	230
School Employee in Household?							
Yes.....	51%	29%	15%	2%	3%	0%	98
Family Income							
Under 35,000.....	43%	25%	18%	6%	6%	1%	181
35-50,000.....	52%	26%	16%	4%	2%	1%	147
50-69,000.....	39%	33%	24%	1%	4%	0%	116
70,000 and above..	49%	26%	16%	4%	3%	1%	238
Education							
H.S. or less.....	41%	25%	22%	5%	6%	2%	244
Some college.....	46%	28%	17%	4%	3%	1%	222
College grad & up.	48%	27%	18%	3%	3%	0%	331
Age							
18-29.....	39%	30%	22%	5%	3%	0%	148
30-44.....	52%	27%	14%	3%	4%	1%	245
45-64.....	45%	25%	20%	3%	5%	1%	271
65 & older.....	36%	24%	24%	7%	7%	2%	111
Place where live							
Urban.....	47%	25%	19%	4%	4%	0%	173
Suburban.....	47%	27%	17%	5%	3%	1%	267
Rural/Small Town..	43%	26%	21%	4%	5%	2%	342
Party Identification							
Democrat.....	58%	23%	11%	2%	5%	1%	228
Republican.....	35%	29%	27%	5%	4%	1%	221
Independent.....	42%	29%	20%	6%	2%	1%	233

Overall, do you think the funding for public public schools in Virginia is enough to meet their needs, or not enough to meet their needs?

	Enough	Not enough	Don't Know	No Answer	Number of cases
Total	23%	67%	8%	1%	804
Male	28%	65%	6%	1%	319
Female	19%	69%	10%	1%	485
White	25%	66%	7%	1%	602
Black	13%	78%	8%	1%	110
Northwest	29%	50%	17%	4%	110
Northern VA	31%	61%	7%	1%	225
West	16%	80%	3%	1%	160
South Central	23%	71%	5%	2%	137
Tidewater	19%	71%	10%	1%	172
Have Children in Public School?					
Yes	22%	69%	8%	1%	230
School Employee in Household?					
Yes	13%	81%	5%	1%	98
Family Income					
Under 35,000	21%	72%	7%	1%	181
35-50,000	22%	69%	7%	1%	147
50-69,000	23%	68%	8%	1%	116
70,000 and above	27%	65%	7%	1%	238
Education					
H.S. or less	27%	66%	7%	0%	244
Some college	21%	70%	8%	1%	222
College grad & up.	22%	68%	8%	2%	331
Age					
18-29	29%	62%	8%	0%	148
30-44	15%	77%	6%	1%	245
45-64	23%	69%	6%	2%	271
65 & older	33%	52%	13%	2%	111
Place where live					
Urban	18%	70%	11%	2%	173
Suburban	30%	64%	6%	0%	267
Rural/Small Town	22%	69%	7%	2%	342
Party Identification					
Democrat	14%	79%	6%	1%	228
Republican	35%	56%	8%	2%	221
Independent	22%	67%	9%	1%	233

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	Would you be willing or not willing to pay higher taxes so that school funding could be increased?				Number of cases
	Willing	Not willing	Don't Know	No Answer	
Total	60%	34%	4%	2%	804
Male	58%	36%	4%	1%	319
Female	61%	32%	4%	3%	485
White	61%	33%	4%	2%	602
Black	63%	33%	2%	2%	110
Northwest	51%	40%	6%	3%	110
Northern VA	61%	34%	3%	2%	225
West	66%	26%	5%	3%	160
South Central	57%	35%	7%	1%	137
Tidewater	59%	37%	2%	2%	172
Have Children in Public School?					
Yes	68%	26%	5%	2%	230
School Employee in Household?					
Yes	70%	23%	6%	0%	98
Family Income					
Under 35,000	55%	36%	3%	6%	181
35-50,000	62%	28%	7%	3%	147
50-69,000	61%	37%	1%	0%	116
70,000 and above	66%	30%	2%	1%	238
Education					
H.S. or less	52%	39%	7%	3%	244
Some college	63%	32%	3%	3%	222
College grad & up.	65%	31%	3%	1%	331
Age					
18-29	61%	30%	7%	2%	148
30-44	66%	28%	4%	2%	245
45-64	63%	33%	2%	2%	271
65 & older	41%	53%	4%	3%	111
Place where live					
Urban	57%	35%	4%	4%	173
Suburban	62%	33%	4%	1%	267
Rural/Small Town	60%	33%	4%	2%	342
Party Identification					
Democrat	71%	24%	3%	2%	228
Republican	51%	43%	3%	2%	221
Independent	62%	30%	6%	2%	233

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	IF WILLING: What kind of tax increase do you think would be best:						Number of cases
	Sales tax	Income tax	Real estate	Personal property	Don't Know	No Answer	
Total.....	58%	14%	10%	11%	4%	2%	477
Male.....	61%	17%	10%	9%	2%	1%	179
Female.....	55%	11%	11%	13%	6%	3%	298
White.....	62%	14%	8%	10%	4%	3%	361
Black.....	51%	13%	15%	13%	8%	0%	72
Northwest.....	74%	11%	8%	3%	4%	0%	58
Northern VA.....	62%	13%	11%	8%	2%	4%	139
West.....	55%	16%	5%	17%	3%	5%	100
South Central.....	52%	19%	14%	12%	3%	1%	78
Tidewater.....	53%	11%	13%	13%	9%	1%	102
Have Children in Public School?							
Yes.....	58%	11%	10%	16%	5%	1%	159
School Employee in Household?							
Yes.....	68%	16%	5%	6%	1%	3%	71
Family Income							
Under 35,000.....	51%	14%	14%	17%	2%	3%	100
35-50,000.....	60%	12%	10%	10%	5%	2%	91
50-69,000.....	62%	11%	13%	9%	5%	0%	72
70,000 and above..	62%	17%	8%	9%	2%	2%	157
Education							
H.S. or less.....	63%	8%	10%	13%	5%	2%	127
Some college.....	51%	18%	12%	10%	5%	4%	136
College grad & up.	60%	15%	10%	11%	3%	1%	214
Age							
18-29.....	43%	19%	12%	20%	5%	1%	93
30-44.....	59%	12%	13%	10%	5%	1%	161
45-64.....	65%	14%	6%	8%	3%	3%	164
65 & older.....	63%	8%	10%	8%	3%	8%	47
Place where live							
Urban.....	53%	25%	7%	10%	3%	2%	96
Suburban.....	57%	9%	15%	11%	6%	3%	169
Rural/Small Town..	61%	13%	8%	13%	3%	2%	204
Party Identification							
Democrat.....	54%	16%	14%	11%	3%	2%	162
Republican.....	67%	11%	7%	8%	3%	3%	115
Independent.....	57%	16%	11%	10%	4%	2%	144

	The General Assembly considered increasing the sales tax in Virginia in order to increase funding for public education						Number of cases
	Very good	Good idea	Bad idea	Very bad	Don't Know	No Answer	
Total.....	14%	47%	24%	11%	2%	2%	804
Male.....	16%	44%	24%	14%	1%	1%	319
Female.....	13%	49%	25%	8%	3%	3%	485
White.....	15%	48%	22%	11%	2%	2%	602
Black.....	12%	48%	29%	6%	3%	2%	110
Northwest.....	13%	37%	32%	14%	2%	2%	110
Northern VA.....	23%	40%	20%	13%	2%	1%	225
West.....	13%	52%	17%	16%	1%	2%	160
South Central.....	11%	50%	31%	5%	2%	2%	137
Tidewater.....	8%	53%	27%	7%	3%	2%	172
Have Children in Public School?							
Yes.....	14%	51%	23%	8%	3%	2%	230
School Employee in Household?							
Yes.....	19%	57%	14%	7%	1%	3%	98
Family Income							
Under 35,000.....	10%	46%	29%	10%	4%	1%	181
35-50,000.....	7%	61%	20%	10%	1%	2%	147
50-69,000.....	10%	46%	28%	13%	2%	1%	116
70,000 and above..	24%	42%	22%	11%	1%	1%	238
Education							
H.S. or less.....	11%	47%	30%	8%	2%	3%	244
Some college.....	10%	55%	20%	11%	2%	2%	222
College grad & up.	20%	41%	23%	13%	3%	1%	331
Age							
18-29.....	7%	57%	24%	9%	1%	2%	148
30-44.....	16%	48%	23%	9%	3%	2%	245
45-64.....	20%	39%	23%	15%	2%	1%	271
65 & older.....	12%	42%	32%	9%	3%	3%	111
Place where live							
Urban.....	13%	47%	27%	9%	4%	1%	173
Suburban.....	17%	43%	25%	12%	2%	1%	267
Rural/Small Town..	13%	49%	23%	11%	1%	3%	342
Party Identification							
Democrat.....	17%	50%	23%	5%	2%	2%	228
Republican.....	14%	42%	26%	15%	1%	2%	221
Independent.....	14%	49%	23%	11%	2%	1%	233

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	Do you favor or oppose allowing students and parents to choose a (private/religious-based private) school at public expense?				
	Favor	Oppose	Don't Know	No Answer	Number of cases
Total	35%	60%	3%	2%	804
Male	36%	61%	2%	1%	319
Female	34%	58%	4%	3%	485
White	33%	61%	3%	2%	602
Black	40%	54%	4%	2%	110
Northwest	35%	54%	8%	3%	110
Northern VA	34%	60%	3%	3%	225
West	36%	60%	2%	1%	160
South Central	38%	56%	3%	3%	137
Tidewater	34%	64%	2%	1%	172
Have Children in Public School?					
Yes	37%	58%	4%	1%	230
School Employee in Household?					
Yes	24%	68%	3%	5%	98
Family Income					
Under 35,000	35%	58%	5%	2%	181
35-50,000	29%	66%	2%	3%	147
50-69,000	38%	55%	6%	1%	116
70,000 and above	36%	61%	1%	1%	238
Education					
H.S. or less	35%	57%	3%	4%	244
Some college	38%	56%	4%	2%	222
College grad & up	33%	64%	2%	1%	331
Age					
18-29	41%	53%	4%	2%	148
30-44	35%	60%	4%	1%	245
45-64	34%	62%	3%	2%	271
65 & older	26%	66%	3%	5%	111
Place where live					
Urban	34%	63%	1%	1%	173
Suburban	35%	60%	2%	2%	267
Rural/Small Town	35%	58%	4%	3%	342
Party Identification					
Democrat	28%	66%	3%	3%	228
Republican	45%	51%	3%	1%	221
Independent	36%	61%	2%	1%	233

	If vouchers are allowed, the public schools will improve performance because of more competition from private schools				
	Likely	Unlikely	Don't Know	No Answer	Number of cases
Total.....	44%	51%	4%	1%	804
Male.....	47%	50%	2%	1%	319
Female.....	40%	53%	6%	1%	485
White.....	39%	57%	4%	1%	602
Black.....	54%	40%	6%	0%	110
Northwest.....	42%	52%	4%	3%	110
Northern VA.....	43%	53%	3%	1%	225
West.....	47%	47%	5%	1%	160
South Central.....	44%	50%	5%	0%	137
Tidewater.....	42%	54%	4%	0%	172
Have Children in Public School?					
Yes.....	49%	47%	3%	0%	230
School Employee in Household?					
Yes.....	33%	63%	3%	0%	98
Family Income					
Under 35,000.....	41%	51%	7%	1%	181
35-50,000.....	47%	50%	3%	0%	147
50-69,000.....	42%	56%	2%	0%	116
70,000 and above..	44%	53%	2%	1%	238
Education					
H.S. or less.....	47%	46%	6%	1%	244
Some college.....	43%	54%	3%	0%	222
College grad & up.	42%	54%	3%	1%	331
Age					
18-29.....	46%	50%	3%	0%	148
30-44.....	45%	52%	2%	0%	245
45-64.....	44%	51%	3%	2%	271
65 & older.....	36%	51%	10%	2%	111
Place where live					
Urban.....	47%	51%	2%	0%	173
Suburban.....	41%	53%	5%	1%	267
Rural/Small Town..	45%	50%	4%	1%	342
Party Identification					
Democrat.....	44%	51%	4%	0%	228
Republican.....	51%	46%	3%	1%	221
Independent.....	41%	55%	4%	0%	233

	If vouchers are allowed, lower income parents will have more choice in deciding which school is best for their child				
	Likely	Unlikely	Don't Know	No Answer	Number of cases
Total.....	60%	35%	4%	1%	804
Male.....	61%	37%	2%	0%	319
Female.....	60%	33%	5%	2%	485
White.....	59%	35%	4%	1%	602
Black.....	62%	37%	0%	0%	110
Northwest.....	60%	35%	4%	2%	110
Northern VA.....	65%	31%	4%	0%	225
West.....	59%	32%	5%	3%	160
South Central.....	59%	40%	1%	0%	137
Tidewater.....	57%	39%	4%	1%	172
Have Children in Public School?					
Yes.....	61%	36%	3%	0%	230
School Employee in Household?					
Yes.....	44%	53%	3%	1%	98
Family Income					
Under 35,000.....	59%	36%	5%	0%	181
35-50,000.....	59%	33%	4%	4%	147
50-69,000.....	64%	32%	4%	0%	116
70,000 and above..	61%	37%	1%	0%	238
Education					
H.S. or less.....	58%	36%	4%	1%	244
Some college.....	64%	32%	3%	1%	222
College grad & up.	59%	38%	3%	1%	331
Age					
18-29.....	69%	29%	1%	0%	148
30-44.....	60%	38%	2%	0%	245
45-64.....	58%	37%	4%	1%	271
65 & older.....	51%	35%	9%	4%	111
Place where live					
Urban.....	62%	36%	1%	1%	173
Suburban.....	65%	31%	4%	0%	267
Rural/Small Town..	56%	38%	4%	2%	342
Party Identification					
Democrat.....	51%	43%	5%	1%	228
Republican.....	67%	30%	2%	2%	221
Independent.....	62%	34%	4%	1%	233

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	If vouchers are allowed, for the most part only parents who already send their children to private schools will use vouchers				
	Likely	Unlikely	Don't Know	No Answer	Number of cases
Total.....	47%	44%	7%	2%	804
Male.....	50%	45%	4%	2%	319
Female.....	44%	44%	11%	2%	485
White.....	44%	46%	8%	1%	602
Black.....	53%	42%	4%	1%	110
Northwest.....	39%	49%	9%	4%	110
Northern VA.....	47%	43%	8%	2%	225
West.....	51%	42%	5%	2%	160
South Central.....	43%	46%	8%	2%	137
Tidewater.....	49%	43%	7%	1%	172
Have Children in Public School?					
Yes.....	49%	44%	5%	2%	230
School Employee in Household?					
Yes.....	58%	36%	3%	2%	98
Family Income					
Under 35,000.....	47%	43%	7%	3%	181
35-50,000.....	53%	40%	6%	2%	147
50-69,000.....	46%	44%	8%	2%	116
70,000 and above..	49%	46%	5%	0%	238
Education					
H.S. or less.....	49%	39%	9%	3%	244
Some college.....	44%	49%	6%	1%	222
College grad & up.	47%	46%	6%	1%	331
Age					
18-29.....	56%	40%	3%	1%	148
30-44.....	49%	46%	5%	0%	245
45-64.....	48%	42%	9%	1%	271
65 & older.....	27%	51%	17%	5%	111
Place where live					
Urban.....	50%	42%	8%	0%	173
Suburban.....	43%	48%	7%	2%	267
Rural/Small Town..	48%	43%	6%	2%	342
Party Identification					
Democrat.....	52%	40%	7%	1%	228
Republican.....	40%	52%	5%	2%	221
Independent.....	50%	40%	9%	1%	233

Vouchers could result in government funds being used for discrimination because private schools can select which students they want to admit.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know	No Answer	Number of cases
Total	27%	30%	19%	16%	5%	3%	804
Male	22%	31%	23%	18%	3%	2%	319
Female	31%	28%	16%	14%	7%	3%	485
White	24%	31%	20%	17%	6%	2%	602
Black	40%	33%	12%	11%	2%	2%	110
Northwest	23%	29%	18%	21%	4%	4%	110
Northern VA	25%	28%	24%	17%	4%	1%	225
West	30%	33%	14%	14%	5%	4%	160
South Central	28%	29%	16%	17%	6%	3%	137
Tidewater	28%	29%	19%	14%	8%	2%	172
Have Children in Public School?							
Yes	33%	32%	15%	13%	5%	2%	230
School Employee in Household?							
Yes	33%	40%	8%	12%	7%	1%	98
Family Income							
Under 35,000	35%	28%	15%	13%	8%	1%	181
35-50,000	29%	33%	17%	12%	7%	3%	147
50-69,000	29%	37%	19%	14%	0%	2%	116
70,000 and above	22%	32%	23%	18%	4%	1%	238
Education							
H.S. or less	32%	29%	13%	16%	8%	3%	244
Some college	27%	33%	17%	16%	5%	2%	222
College grad & up.	23%	28%	26%	17%	3%	3%	331
Age							
18-29	23%	28%	21%	19%	8%	1%	148
30-44	29%	36%	16%	14%	4%	1%	245
45-64	30%	25%	20%	17%	4%	4%	271
65 & older	19%	29%	22%	15%	8%	6%	111
Place where live							
Urban	26%	28%	21%	16%	8%	1%	173
Suburban	27%	27%	22%	18%	2%	3%	267
Rural/Small Town	28%	34%	16%	15%	6%	2%	342
Party Identification							
Democrat	43%	31%	13%	9%	2%	2%	228
Republican	9%	33%	28%	24%	4%	2%	221
Independent	26%	31%	18%	17%	6%	2%	233

People who don't like the public schools have the have the choice to use private schools or home schooling right now, even if vouchers are not allowed.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know	No Answer	Number of cases
Total.....	39%	39%	9%	7%	5%	1%	804
Male.....	35%	44%	10%	7%	4%	0%	319
Female.....	42%	35%	9%	6%	6%	2%	485
White.....	40%	41%	8%	4%	5%	1%	602
Black.....	34%	40%	9%	14%	3%	0%	110
Northwest.....	32%	45%	8%	7%	7%	1%	110
Northern VA.....	42%	35%	8%	6%	6%	2%	225
West.....	33%	42%	13%	8%	4%	0%	160
South Central.....	40%	38%	12%	6%	4%	0%	137
Tidewater.....	41%	40%	6%	7%	5%	2%	172
Have Children in Public School?							
Yes.....	37%	38%	8%	9%	6%	2%	230
School Employee in Household?							
Yes.....	46%	37%	6%	5%	4%	2%	98
Family Income							
Under 35,000.....	39%	32%	11%	9%	8%	1%	181
35-50,000.....	34%	44%	6%	7%	8%	1%	147
50-69,000.....	31%	46%	18%	4%	1%	0%	116
70,000 and above..	45%	39%	8%	5%	2%	1%	238
Education							
H.S. or less.....	34%	41%	8%	9%	7%	1%	244
Some college.....	43%	37%	12%	4%	3%	1%	222
College grad & up.	40%	39%	9%	6%	5%	1%	331
Age							
18-29.....	35%	39%	12%	7%	6%	1%	148
30-44.....	40%	41%	10%	5%	4%	1%	245
45-64.....	44%	38%	7%	7%	2%	2%	271
65 & older.....	30%	39%	9%	7%	14%	1%	111
Place where live							
Urban.....	38%	44%	6%	4%	7%	2%	173
Suburban.....	42%	36%	10%	8%	3%	1%	267
Rural/Small Town..	36%	40%	10%	7%	5%	1%	342
Party Identification							
Democrat.....	41%	40%	9%	7%	3%	1%	228
Republican.....	42%	43%	7%	4%	3%	1%	221
Independent.....	34%	40%	12%	5%	7%	2%	233

	How much influence do you think principals have on overall school performance?						Number of cases
	A great deal	Quite a lot	Not too much	None at all	Don't Know	No Answer	
Total.....	40%	29%	25%	3%	3%	0%	804
Male.....	39%	28%	28%	4%	2%	0%	319
Female.....	42%	29%	23%	2%	4%	0%	485
White.....	38%	32%	24%	3%	3%	0%	602
Black.....	44%	21%	31%	3%	1%	0%	110
Northwest.....	37%	31%	27%	2%	3%	0%	110
Northern VA.....	40%	32%	21%	3%	5%	0%	225
West.....	44%	26%	25%	3%	2%	0%	160
South Central.....	34%	29%	33%	2%	2%	0%	137
Tidewater.....	44%	26%	23%	4%	2%	0%	172
Have Children in Public School?							
Yes.....	43%	31%	20%	3%	2%	0%	230
School Employee in Household?							
Yes.....	48%	27%	24%	0%	1%	0%	98
Family Income							
Under 35,000.....	43%	22%	27%	5%	3%	0%	181
35-50,000.....	46%	24%	25%	2%	3%	0%	147
50-69,000.....	32%	36%	29%	1%	3%	0%	116
70,000 and above..	41%	32%	22%	2%	3%	0%	238
Education							
H.S. or less.....	43%	23%	26%	5%	4%	0%	244
Some college.....	38%	30%	28%	1%	2%	0%	222
College grad & up.	40%	32%	23%	2%	3%	0%	331
Age							
18-29.....	31%	30%	30%	6%	3%	0%	148
30-44.....	42%	29%	24%	2%	3%	0%	245
45-64.....	44%	30%	24%	2%	1%	0%	271
65 & older.....	44%	22%	24%	2%	7%	1%	111
Place where live							
Urban.....	35%	30%	25%	4%	5%	0%	173
Suburban.....	42%	30%	23%	3%	2%	0%	267
Rural/Small Town..	42%	26%	27%	2%	2%	0%	342
Party Identification							
Democrat.....	46%	27%	21%	3%	3%	0%	228
Republican.....	43%	30%	24%	1%	3%	0%	221
Independent.....	32%	29%	31%	4%	3%	0%	233

	How much influence do you think school district superintendents have on overall school performance?						Number of cases
	A great deal	Quite a lot	Not too much	None at all	Don't Know	No Answer	
Total	30%	26%	33%	5%	6%	0%	804
Male	31%	24%	34%	6%	6%	0%	319
Female	29%	27%	32%	4%	6%	1%	485
White	26%	26%	36%	5%	7%	0%	602
Black	45%	23%	25%	5%	1%	1%	110
Northwest	27%	30%	30%	8%	5%	1%	110
Northern VA	22%	26%	37%	4%	10%	1%	225
West	34%	29%	28%	5%	4%	0%	160
South Central	30%	23%	38%	4%	4%	0%	137
Tidewater	35%	22%	31%	6%	5%	0%	172
Have Children in Public School?							
Yes	31%	28%	31%	6%	3%	1%	230
School Employee in Household?							
Yes	28%	34%	32%	4%	1%	0%	98
Family Income							
Under 35,000	37%	20%	32%	6%	5%	1%	181
35-50,000	27%	26%	35%	7%	4%	0%	147
50-69,000	28%	29%	31%	6%	6%	0%	116
70,000 and above	31%	26%	33%	4%	6%	1%	238
Education							
H.S. or less	34%	17%	37%	6%	6%	1%	244
Some college	26%	28%	35%	5%	7%	0%	222
College grad & up	30%	31%	29%	5%	5%	1%	331
Age							
18-29	26%	24%	36%	7%	5%	1%	148
30-44	33%	25%	31%	6%	4%	0%	245
45-64	30%	30%	34%	2%	4%	0%	271
65 & older	29%	22%	33%	4%	13%	0%	111
Place where live							
Urban	21%	32%	32%	6%	9%	0%	173
Suburban	32%	24%	32%	5%	7%	1%	267
Rural/Small Town	33%	24%	35%	5%	4%	0%	342
Party Identification							
Democrat	37%	28%	25%	4%	6%	0%	228
Republican	28%	23%	37%	6%	6%	0%	221
Independent	27%	25%	36%	5%	6%	0%	233

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	How much influence do you think school boards have on overall school performance?						Number of cases
	A great deal	Quite a lot	Not too much	None at all	Don't Know	No Answer	
Total.....	30%	29%	30%	6%	5%	0%	804
Male.....	31%	27%	31%	7%	4%	0%	319
Female.....	29%	31%	29%	4%	6%	0%	485
White.....	26%	30%	33%	5%	5%	0%	602
Black.....	42%	26%	22%	5%	4%	0%	110
Northwest.....	30%	27%	24%	9%	7%	3%	110
Northern VA.....	26%	29%	32%	6%	7%	0%	225
West.....	32%	31%	30%	4%	3%	0%	160
South Central.....	31%	28%	33%	5%	4%	0%	137
Tidewater.....	32%	29%	29%	5%	6%	0%	172
Have Children in Public School?							
Yes.....	37%	29%	27%	4%	4%	0%	230
School Employee in Household?							
Yes.....	31%	32%	27%	6%	4%	0%	98
Family Income							
Under 35,000.....	33%	27%	28%	7%	4%	1%	181
35-50,000.....	27%	32%	29%	8%	5%	0%	147
50-69,000.....	26%	29%	36%	6%	4%	0%	116
70,000 and above..	30%	28%	32%	5%	5%	0%	238
Education							
H.S. or less.....	32%	27%	29%	6%	5%	1%	244
Some college.....	29%	30%	31%	5%	6%	0%	222
College grad & up.	28%	30%	30%	6%	5%	0%	331
Age							
18-29.....	28%	33%	26%	7%	5%	0%	148
30-44.....	36%	27%	28%	5%	4%	0%	245
45-64.....	30%	29%	31%	6%	3%	0%	271
65 & older.....	17%	27%	40%	4%	11%	1%	111
Place where live							
Urban.....	22%	33%	31%	6%	7%	1%	173
Suburban.....	35%	27%	30%	4%	5%	0%	267
Rural/Small Town..	31%	29%	29%	7%	4%	0%	342
Party Identification							
Democrat.....	38%	26%	27%	4%	5%	0%	228
Republican.....	27%	30%	32%	8%	4%	0%	221
Independent.....	26%	31%	32%	6%	5%	0%	233

	How much is this a reason for better school performance: good quality teachers?						Number of cases
	A top reason	Impt. but not top	Not too impt.	Not at all impt.	Don't Know	No Answer	
Total.....	85%	12%	1%	1%	1%	0%	804
Male.....	86%	11%	1%	1%	0%	0%	319
Female.....	84%	12%	1%	0%	1%	0%	485
White.....	86%	12%	1%	0%	1%	0%	602
Black.....	82%	14%	2%	1%	1%	0%	110
Northwest.....	76%	20%	1%	0%	1%	2%	110
Northern VA.....	88%	9%	1%	0%	1%	1%	225
West.....	84%	13%	1%	1%	1%	0%	160
South Central.....	91%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	137
Tidewater.....	84%	12%	1%	1%	2%	0%	172
Have Children in Public School?							
Yes.....	89%	11%	0%	0%	0%	0%	230
School Employee in Household?							
Yes.....	86%	11%	1%	0%	1%	0%	98
Family Income							
Under 35,000.....	79%	12%	4%	2%	2%	1%	181
35-50,000.....	83%	17%	1%	0%	0%	0%	147
50-69,000.....	88%	12%	0%	0%	0%	0%	116
70,000 and above..	91%	8%	0%	0%	0%	1%	238
Education							
H.S. or less.....	83%	12%	1%	1%	2%	1%	244
Some college.....	85%	12%	1%	1%	0%	1%	222
College grad & up.	88%	12%	0%	0%	0%	0%	331
Age							
18-29.....	85%	14%	1%	0%	0%	0%	148
30-44.....	87%	11%	1%	1%	0%	1%	245
45-64.....	89%	10%	0%	1%	0%	0%	271
65 & older.....	76%	14%	3%	1%	5%	1%	111
Place where live							
Urban.....	90%	8%	0%	0%	2%	0%	173
Suburban.....	84%	13%	2%	1%	0%	1%	267
Rural/Small Town..	85%	12%	1%	1%	1%	0%	342
Party Identification							
Democrat.....	88%	11%	1%	0%	1%	0%	228
Republican.....	86%	13%	0%	0%	1%	1%	221
Independent.....	85%	12%	1%	1%	1%	0%	233

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How much is this a reason for better school performance: students with a strong motivation to learn?

	A top reason	Impt. but not top	Not too impt.	Not at all impt.	Don't Know	No Answer	Number of cases
Total.....	65%	28%	4%	1%	1%	1%	804
Male.....	65%	27%	6%	1%	1%	1%	319
Female.....	65%	29%	3%	1%	2%	0%	485
White.....	65%	29%	4%	1%	2%	0%	602
Black.....	66%	29%	4%	0%	0%	1%	110
Northwest.....	61%	33%	6%	0%	1%	0%	110
Northern VA.....	65%	28%	2%	2%	1%	1%	225
West.....	68%	24%	5%	1%	2%	1%	160
South Central.....	68%	25%	5%	1%	1%	0%	137
Tidewater.....	62%	30%	5%	1%	1%	1%	172
Have Children in Public School?							
Yes.....	64%	29%	5%	0%	0%	2%	230
School Employee in Household?							
Yes.....	65%	31%	3%	2%	0%	0%	98
Family Income							
Under 35,000.....	63%	25%	8%	1%	2%	0%	181
35-50,000.....	59%	35%	2%	1%	1%	2%	147
50-69,000.....	68%	25%	5%	1%	1%	0%	116
70,000 and above..	67%	30%	3%	0%	1%	0%	238
Education							
H.S. or less.....	65%	24%	7%	2%	2%	0%	244
Some college.....	62%	32%	4%	1%	0%	1%	222
College grad & up.	67%	29%	3%	0%	1%	1%	331
Age							
18-29.....	62%	30%	5%	2%	0%	0%	148
30-44.....	59%	33%	6%	0%	1%	1%	245
45-64.....	71%	26%	2%	0%	.0%	0%	271
65 & older.....	69%	18%	4%	2%	6%	1%	111
Place where live							
Urban.....	67%	27%	3%	1%	2%	0%	173
Suburban.....	65%	27%	5%	1%	1%	1%	267
Rural/Small Town..	64%	29%	5%	1%	1%	1%	342
Party Identification							
Democrat.....	61%	33%	3%	1%	1%	1%	228
Republican.....	70%	27%	2%	0%	2%	0%	221
Independent.....	65%	26%	7%	2%	1%	0%	233

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	How much is this a reason for better school performance: leadership from school principals?						
	A top reason	Impt. but not top	Not too impt.	Not at all impt.	Don't Know	No Answer	Number of cases
Tota.....	40%	47%	8%	3%	2%	0%	804
Male.....	38%	48%	10%	3%	1%	0%	319
Female.....	43%	46%	6%	2%	2%	0%	485
White.....	35%	51%	9%	3%	2%	0%	602
Black.....	53%	38%	4%	3%	2%	1%	110
Northwest.....	36%	53%	3%	3%	3%	2%	110
Northern VA.....	41%	47%	10%	1%	2%	0%	225
West.....	38%	50%	6%	3%	3%	0%	160
South Central.....	37%	48%	11%	3%	0%	0%	137
Tidewater.....	45%	42%	8%	3%	2%	0%	172
Have Children in Public School?							
Yes.....	45%	44%	6%	5%	1%	0%	230
School Employee in Household?							
Yes.....	41%	53%	5%	1%	1%	0%	98
Family Income							
Under 35,000.....	45%	40%	6%	6%	2%	1%	181
35-50,000.....	45%	44%	6%	2%	1%	1%	147
50-69,000.....	35%	50%	11%	2%	2%	0%	116
70,000 and above..	38%	50%	10%	1%	1%	0%	238
Education							
H.S. or less.....	46%	42%	5%	5%	2%	1%	244
Some college.....	41%	46%	10%	1%	1%	0%	222
College grad & up.	35%	53%	9%	2%	2%	0%	331
Age							
18-29.....	29%	57%	11%	3%	0%	0%	148
30-44.....	41%	45%	8%	4%	1%	0%	245
45-64.....	46%	43%	7%	1%	2%	0%	271
65 & older.....	43%	44%	5%	1%	6%	1%	111
Place where live							
Urban.....	43%	42%	11%	3%	2%	0%	173
Suburban.....	37%	54%	7%	2%	0%	0%	267
Rural/Small Town..	42%	44%	7%	3%	3%	1%	342
Party Identification							
Democrat.....	47%	44%	5%	1%	2%	0%	228
Republican.....	40%	51%	6%	0%	2%	0%	221
Independent.....	34%	46%	13%	6%	1%	0%	233

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	How much is this a reason for better school performance: leadership from district superintendents?						
	A top reason	Impt. but not top	Not too impt.	Not at all impt.	Don't Know	No Answer	Number of cases
Total.....	25%	45%	20%	6%	3%	1%	804
Male.....	24%	47%	19%	9%	2%	0%	319
Female.....	26%	43%	22%	4%	5%	1%	485
White.....	20%	49%	22%	6%	3%	0%	602
Black.....	40%	36%	14%	7%	3%	1%	110
Northwest.....	17%	47%	28%	4%	1%	2%	110
Northern VA.....	16%	42%	25%	10%	5%	1%	225
West.....	32%	42%	15%	6%	5%	0%	160
South Central.....	32%	46%	19%	3%	1%	0%	137
Tidewater.....	27%	48%	15%	5%	3%	1%	172
Have Children in Public School?							
Yes.....	24%	46%	18%	8%	3%	1%	230
School Employee in Household?							
Yes.....	20%	55%	22%	2%	2%	0%	98
Family Income							
Under 35,000.....	33%	38%	17%	9%	2%	1%	181
35-50,000.....	22%	53%	17%	3%	5%	1%	147
50-69,000.....	26%	40%	26%	6%	1%	1%	116
70,000 and above..	20%	48%	22%	7%	3%	0%	238
Education							
H.S. or less.....	31%	43%	15%	7%	2%	1%	244
Some college.....	26%	41%	24%	4%	3%	1%	222
College grad & up.	19%	49%	22%	6%	4%	0%	331
Age							
18-29.....	18%	55%	20%	5%	1%	1%	148
30-44.....	24%	41%	22%	9%	4%	0%	245
45-64.....	25%	46%	20%	6%	3%	0%	271
65 & older.....	33%	38%	18%	2%	6%	2%	111
Place where live							
Urban.....	25%	48%	18%	5%	6%	0%	173
Suburban.....	21%	45%	21%	8%	3%	1%	267
Rural/Small Town..	27%	43%	21%	6%	2%	1%	342
Party Identification							
Democrat.....	34%	41%	18%	3%	3%	0%	228
Republican.....	22%	45%	23%	6%	4%	0%	221
Independent.....	20%	47%	23%	8%	1%	0%	233

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	How much is this a reason for better school performance: parents who are involved in the school?						
	A top reason	Impt. but not top	Not too impt.	Not at all impt.	Don't Know	No Answer	Number of cases
Total.....	69%	25%	3%	1%	1%	0%	804
Male.....	67%	26%	4%	1%	1%	0%	319
Female.....	71%	24%	2%	2%	1%	0%	485
White.....	68%	26%	3%	1%	1%	0%	602
Black.....	77%	19%	4%	1%	0%	0%	110
Northwest.....	61%	32%	2%	1%	2%	2%	110
Northern VA.....	70%	24%	5%	0%	2%	0%	225
West.....	74%	21%	2%	2%	1%	0%	160
South Central.....	77%	19%	3%	1%	0%	0%	137
Tidewater.....	64%	31%	2%	1%	0%	0%	172
Have Children in Public School?							
Yes.....	71%	26%	1%	0%	1%	0%	230
School Employee in Household?							
Yes.....	77%	21%	1%	1%	0%	0%	98
Family Income							
Under 35,000.....	66%	25%	3%	3%	2%	0%	181
35-50,000.....	62%	33%	2%	0%	1%	1%	147
50-69,000.....	73%	25%	2%	0%	0%	0%	116
70,000 and above..	75%	22%	3%	0%	0%	0%	238
Education							
H.S. or less.....	69%	24%	4%	2%	1%	1%	244
Some college.....	70%	24%	3%	2%	0%	0%	222
College grad & up.	70%	27%	2%	0%	1%	0%	331
Age							
18-29.....	67%	30%	3%	0%	0%	0%	148
30-44.....	70%	24%	4%	0%	1%	0%	245
45-64.....	75%	22%	1%	1%	0%	0%	271
65 & older.....	58%	27%	5%	4%	4%	2%	111
Place where live							
Urban.....	68%	27%	3%	0%	2%	0%	173
Suburban.....	71%	25%	4%	1%	0%	0%	267
Rural/Small Town..	69%	25%	2%	2%	1%	1%	342
Party Identification							
Democrat.....	71%	25%	2%	1%	1%	0%	228
Republican.....	71%	25%	2%	0%	1%	1%	221
Independent.....	66%	27%	5%	2%	1%	0%	233

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	Giving superintendents more leeway to hire people they think will do well as principals even if they don't have past experience as teachers						
	Very good	Good idea	Bad idea	Very bad	Don't Know	No Answer	Number of cases
Total.....	9%	24%	38%	25%	3%	1%	804
Male.....	12%	26%	38%	21%	2%	1%	319
Female.....	6%	22%	38%	29%	5%	1%	485
White.....	9%	22%	38%	26%	4%	1%	602
Black.....	6%	30%	38%	24%	2%	0%	110
Northwest.....	5%	25%	35%	31%	4%	2%	110
Northern VA.....	10%	23%	40%	23%	3%	0%	225
West.....	10%	22%	36%	29%	2%	1%	160
South Central.....	9%	33%	35%	20%	1%	1%	137
Tidewater.....	8%	18%	41%	25%	7%	0%	172
Have Children in Public School?							
Yes.....	9%	25%	38%	26%	2%	0%	230
School Employee in Household?							
Yes.....	5%	25%	33%	38%	0%	0%	98
Family Income							
Under 35,000.....	11%	31%	34%	21%	3%	0%	181
35-50,000.....	7%	20%	38%	29%	5%	1%	147
50-69,000.....	4%	22%	38%	34%	2%	0%	116
70,000 and above..	10%	21%	42%	24%	3%	1%	238
Education							
H.S. or less.....	9%	33%	33%	20%	3%	1%	244
Some college.....	8%	21%	34%	31%	5%	1%	222
College grad & up.	8%	19%	45%	26%	2%	0%	331
Age							
18-29.....	10%	29%	29%	31%	2%	0%	148
30-44.....	8%	23%	42%	25%	1%	0%	245
45-64.....	8%	23%	37%	28%	4%	0%	271
65 & older.....	10%	17%	45%	16%	8%	4%	111
Place where live							
Urban.....	7%	25%	40%	23%	6%	0%	173
Suburban.....	9%	24%	41%	23%	1%	1%	267
Rural/Small Town..	10%	23%	34%	29%	3%	0%	342
Party Identification							
Democrat.....	7%	24%	42%	24%	3%	0%	228
Republican.....	10%	25%	35%	25%	3%	2%	221
Independent.....	9%	23%	40%	25%	2%	0%	233

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